

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1, 10, 11, 17, 20, 24, 31, 32, 38, 40, 44, 53, 54, 60, 63 and 67-69 are amended, claims 6, 26, 49 and 69 are canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, and claims 70-72 are added. Therefore, claims 1-5, 7-25, 27-48 and 50-68, and 70-72 are pending. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicant's representatives by Examiner Brier in the August 26, 2005 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 10, 12, 31, 33, 42, 53, 57, 58, 65 and 66 if the §112 rejection is overcome. As discussed in detail below, the §112 rejection of these claims is overcome. Applicants also note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 14, 15, 22, 23, 35, 36 and 43. Claims 22, 42 and 65 are rewritten in independent form as new claims 70-72, respectively. However, other claims are not rewritten in independent form because their base claims are patentable at least for the reasons set forth below. Applicants also note with appreciation the allowance of claim 68.

The Office Action rejects claims 4, 6, 7, 9-12, 21, 26-28, 30-33, 39, 41 and 44-66 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 39 and 44 are amended as requested to obviate the rejection. The rejection of claims 4, 6, 9-11, 21, 26, 30-32, 41, 47, 49, 52-54, and 64 is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

With respect to the phrase "at least one of" cited in the Office Action, first Applicants thank Examiner Brier for his clarification during the interview. As discussed during the interview, the phrase "at least one of" means "one or any combination of" as used in the

claim. As requested by the Examiner during the interview, Applicants identify the features in the list in the specification.

With respect to claims 4 and 47, paragraphs [0038] - [0041] support the features. These paragraphs set forth various possibilities of features that can be used together or individually as desired. Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the features can co-exist technically.

The features recited in canceled claims 6, 26 and 49 are incorporated into claims 1, 24 and 44, respectively. The recited features are supported in paragraph [0037], for example. During the interview, Examiner Brier requested Applicant's clarification of the word "appearance" recited in these claims. As described in paragraph [0037] the "appearance" relates to the temporal aspect of the digital ink being displayed, not its visual characteristics.

For claims 9, 30 and 52, paragraph [0045] of the specification, for example, describes that the digital ink controlling circuit 232 may also start fading based on a user input, such as an audio and/or video input. Therefore, the first condition may be either one of the audio and video inputs or both.

Claims 10, 11, 31, 32, 53 and 54 are amended for better clarity. The features recited in these claims are supported in paragraphs [0045] - [0047] of the specification, for example. Based on the description, one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that it is technically possible that the first condition may be met when the system detects the change in presenter (i.e., identification of audio/video input) and/or when he/she starts or ends his/her presentation.

In addition, claims 21, 41 and 64 recite that display attributes include at least one of a color, thickness and shape of selected digital inks. For example, as discussed in the specification at, for example, paragraph [0036], the color and thickness of a digital may change together. Thus, such display attributes may be used individually or in combination.

At least for these reasons, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 68 is amended to correct a typographical error.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are definite in view of the specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9, 11, 13, 16-21, 24-30, 32, 34, 37-41, 44-52, 54, 56, 59-64, 67 and 69 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over "Collaborative Design with NetDraw; Proceedings of Computer Aided Architectural Design (CAAD) Futures '99" by Dongqui Qian and M. D. Gross (Qian). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, method claim 1 and system claim 67 are amended to incorporate the features of cancelled claim 6. System claim 24 is amended to incorporate the features of cancelled claim 26. System claim 44 is amended to incorporate the features of cancelled claim 49. Claims 1, 24, 44 and 67 each recite that at least one of selected at least one digital ink fades based on at least a first condition, that the first condition is a predetermined time, and that the predetermined time is based on one of appearance of the first stroke of the digital ink to users who did not apply the digital ink, appearance of the completed digital ink to the users who did not apply the digital ink, a first stroke of succeeding digital ink is applied, completion of the succeeding digital ink, and an intonational phrase.

As discussed during the interview, Qian does not teach or suggest these features. Specifically, for the "appearance of the first stroke of the digital ink to users who did not apply the digital ink" and "appearance of the completed digital ink to the users who did not apply the digital ink" features, the Office Action cites a paragraph spanning pages 11 and 12 of Qian and alleges that the author proposes a modification that will allow the gesture fade time to vary in response to how the gesture appeared to users who did not make the gesture. However, this paragraph teaches only that the participant who used the gesture object

reported that the staying time of the gesture object is too short. Although such report may result in the modification to the system of Qian to vary the time to fade, the participant's report itself does not cause the digital ink to fade. Moreover, only modification suggested by Quan is a short-cut key. Therefore, Quan does not specifically teach or suggest these features.

For the "first stroke of succeeding digital ink is applied" and "completion of the succeeding digital ink" features, the Office Action asserts that many gestures may be applied by the same user or different users with the gestures as a whole fading and individually fading and the last gesture to be made is the last to fade away. However, while in Quan's system a user or users may apply a multiple number of gestures, and the older gesture may fade earlier than newer gesture, Quan does not specifically teach or suggest relationships between the gestures. In Quan, all digital inks are independent, and the fading of a gesture is not caused by any preceding or succeeding digital ink applied. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Quan does not teach or suggest these features.

Paragraph [0037] of the specification, for example, describes the "intonational phrase" feature. The Office Action refers to pages 11 and 12 alleging that Quan teaches a modification that will allow the gesture fade time to vary in response to how the gesture appeared to users who did not make the gesture which implies how the user who made the gesture intended the gesture to be viewed as if the user were speaking to the other users. However, as discussed above, the user's report does not cause the fade to be initiated. Moreover, because Quan does not teach or suggest any audio input to initiate the fading, Applicants respectfully submit that the allegation of implication is without support.

At least for these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 24, 44 and 67 are patentable over Quan.

Dependent claims 2-5, 7-9, 11, 13, 16-21, 25, 27-30, 32, 34, 37-41, 45, 47, 48, 50-52, 54, 56, 59-64 are allowable at least for their dependency on allowable base claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

For example, claims 9, 30 and 52 recite that the first condition is at least one of an audio input and a video input. The Office Action asserts that Quan teaches a video input because the gesture is visual. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As described in paragraphs [0025] and [0045], a video input may be a video camera, digital still camera, or any known or later developed device that generates video image. The fading starts when there is an audio/video input. Quan does not teach or suggest any audio or video input that causes the fading to start. The Office Action's assertion relies on the display that outputs the digital ink superimposed on the drawing. Regardless of how the digital ink is output on a display, the fading of the digital ink is not controlled by an audio or video input.

Claims 17, 38 and 60 recite that the digital ink partially fades at a completion of the fading. This feature is described in paragraph [0044] of the specification, for example. Quan does not teach or suggest fading partially at the completion of the fading because all of the gestures that fade completely disappear in Quan. See page 2, the 4th paragraph of Quan.

Claims 18, 39 and 61 recite that at least one of selected one digital ink is switched to a non-fading digital ink. The Office Action asserts that Quan teaches at page 11 that since the NetWare application is a drawing program, most of gestures can be created as part of the drawing program or as part of the gesture program, and thus, Quan teaches to one of ordinary skill in the art to select either non-fading ink to display a permanent gesture or to use fading ink to display a temporary gesture. However, the Office Action's assertion relies on the assumption that the user selects either non-fading ink or fading ink merely because NetWare is a drawing program. However, Quan does not specifically teach or suggest such selection, and thus cannot reasonably be considered to anticipate this feature.

Moreover, claims 18, 39 and 61 recite "switching." "Switching" is not synonymous with "selecting." "Switching" involves changing a state of digital ink to another state. Quan does not teach or suggest such a feature because Quan only teaches fading gestures.

Claims 20, 40 and 63 recite that display attributes of the selected digital ink change, in addition to fading, based on the first condition. This feature is described in the specification at, for example, paragraph [0037]. The Office Action asserts that fading of digital ink is one form of changing the display attributes of the digital ink. However, Quan does not teach or suggest other attributes in addition to fading are changed.

Claim 69 is canceled. Thus, the rejection of claim 69 is moot.

At least for these reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

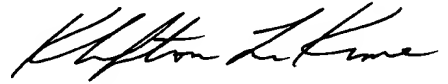
The Office Action rejects claims 21, 41 and 64 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Qian in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,329,991 to Fukuda. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Fukuda does not overcome the deficiencies of Quan. Therefore, claims 21, 41 and 64 are patentable at least for their respective dependence on claims 1, 24 and 44, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Amendment Transmittal

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